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Gromyko's Son Says Crisis Softened JFK

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW—Anatoly Gromyko, son of Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, claims that the 1962 Cuban missile crisis softened the late President Kennedy's attitude toward the Soviet Union.

The claim is made in a book by Anatoly, a journalist and historian, to be published here under the title, "The 1036 Days of President Kennedy."

It is the first full-length Soviet study of President Kennedy and his period in the White House, although extracts from American books on him have been translated into Russian.

A chapter of the book, published in the latest edition of the weekly Knizhnoye Obozrenie (Book Review), reflects the strong duality in the Soviet view of the President-suspicion of him as a representative and defender of U.S. capitalists and approval of his "realism" in foreign policy and liberalizing at home.

Gromyko, in a chapter dealing with the period between the missile crisis in October, 1962, and the fall of 1963, portrays the President as desiring a relaxation of tension and a detente with Russia.

But at the same time he shows him as beset by rightwing opposition and half-heartedness among his closest Government colleagues, including Secretary of State Dean Rusk, in regard to the new policies emanating from the White House.

The opposition which built up after his anti-cold war speech at the American University in Washington in June, 1963, according to Gromyko, led the President to slacken the pace of the rapprochement with the Kremlin.

"Kennedy himself did not show sufficient activity in defending and developing the positive tendencies in the foreign policy of the U.S.A.," he writes.